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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 038822

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 038822

LIMDIS FOR ATHERTON

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 589 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAIRO DAMASCUS
TEL AVIV 17 FEBRUARY 76.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0589

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN, SY, XF
SUBJECT: SYRIAN MOVES TOWARD FURTHER UN CONSIDERATION
OF MIDDLE EAST QUESTION

REF: DAMASCUS 524
DAMASCUS 611
STATE 29336
USUN 454

1. SYRIAN FOREIGN OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR WESTERN ERUOPEAN
AFFAIRS JOUEJATI HAS FOR PAST WEEK BEEN MUCH IN EVIDENCE
AROUND CORRIDORS OF UN. HE CLAIMS TO BE IN NEW YORK ON PERSONAL
BUSINESS, AND MAY IN FACT BE SIMPLY RENEWING FRIENDSHIPS HE
MADE AS SYRIAN DEPUTY PERMREP PRIOR TO 1974. IN ANY CASE, WE
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PAGE 02 STATE 038822

TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIS PRESENCE TO EXPLORE SYRIAN THINKING

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

REGARDING NEXT STEPS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

2. JOUEJATI SAID HE BELIEVED PRESIDENT ASAD HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHAT ACTION TO TAKE BEFORE MAY 31 UNDOF REVEWAL. SYRIAN UN MISSION, AT LEAST, HAD NOT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS, EVEN THOUGHT MORE THAN TWO WEEKS HAD PASSED SINCE ASAD HAD BEEN GIVEN OPTIONS PAPER (DAMASCUS REFTELS.) JOUEJATI WONDERED IF ASAD MIGHT NOT HAVE REJECTED THE LIMITED UN OPTIONS PROPOSED BY SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. COMMENT: JOUJATI'S SPECULATION MAY HAVE BEEN PARTLY WISHFUL THINKINGSINCE HE CLEARLY WAS PERSONALLY OPPOSED TO FURTHER SYRIAN MOVES AT THE UN. END COMMENT.

3. JOUEJATI RAN THROUGH THE OPTIONS AS SEEN BY HIS MINISTRY. ONE POSSIBILITY WAS TO MOVE QUICKLY IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL UNDER GA RESOLUTION 3414. (PARA 4 OF 3414 ASKS SC TO TAKE ALL MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT GA AND SC RESOLUTIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST UNDER AN APPROPRIATE TIME-TABLE.) ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE WAS TO WAIT UNTIL UNDOF RENEWAL TIME, AND THEN SUPPORT A DRAFT SIMILAR TO THE JANUARY 26 VETOED RESOLUTION. IF THIS HAPPENED, HE CONTINUED, SYRIA WOULD PROBABLY AGREE TO INCLUDE EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 IN ORDER TO OBTAIN SWEDISH, ITALIAN AND PERHAPS BRITISH VOTES. FINAL OPTION, IF SC RESOLUTION WERE VETOED, WAS TO HAVE RECOURSE TO GA "UNITING FOR PEACE" PROCEDURES (STATE AND USUN REFTELS).

4. JOUEJATI SAID NO ONE IN HIS GOVERNMENT BELIEVED UN ACTIVITY OF THIS SORT WOULD ACHIEVE REAL PROGRESS. THE POINT WAS TO DEVISE A FACE-SAVING DEVICE TO ENABLE ASAD TO EXTEND UNDOF. WE SAID THAT, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, WE BELIEVED FURTHER UN ACTION COULD ONLY DIVERT ENERGY AND ATTENTION FROM REAL PROBLEM OF GETTING SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS STARTED.

5. JOUEJATI REMARKED THAT UNDOF EXTENSION WOULD BE A SIMPLE MATTER IF MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNDER WAY OR ABOUT TO START. WHILE PLO PARTICIPATION WAS ESSENTIAL, HE BELIEVED PROCEDURES FOR PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION COULD BE WORKED OUT IN A WAY ISRAEL COULD LIVE WITH. PERHAPS, HE SAID, THE ANSWER LAY IN "PARALLEL NEGOTIATIONS," WITH THE US

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ACTING AS MIDDLE MAN BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE PLO. SUCH NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE UNDER THE GENEVA UMBRELLA, OR MIGHT BE OUTSIDE IT. WITHOUT ELABORATING FURTHER ON THE CONCEPT, JOUEJATI SAID HE BELIEVED ASAD WOULD AGREE TO NEGOTIATIONS OF THIS SORT.
MOYNIHAN UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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